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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JACK REED, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The prayer will be offered today by CAPT Alan N. Keiran, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Navy.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Good morning. Will you pray with me, please.

Almighty God, Gracious Father, Sovereign of this great Nation, Lord of creation and Lord of our lives, we stand in awe of Your holiness and mercy. In faith and thanksgiving we pray for Your continuing wisdom and grace as we seek to do Your will. Bless us with peace that passes understanding and strength to sustain us in challenging times.

O God, for every Member of this august body, their staffs and families, we pray Your vibrant presence would empower and uphold them in joyous times and sad times. As the Psalmist tells us, "those who seek the Lord lack no good thing." May we as a nation be those who daily seek Your face and honor You through our lives.

Lord, as a lover of righteousness and justice, sustain us in Your unfailing love. Protect our forces on land, at sea, and in the air. Comfort and console those whose loved ones are deployed around the world. Eternal Father, strong to save, to You we ever lift our praise. In Your strong name we pray. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JACK REED led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 6, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JACK REED, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. REED thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 11:30 a.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees and with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

GUEST CHAPLAINS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Chaplain, Reverend Ogilvie, has been out of the city for all of this week, and he has

had military chaplains come in. They have been very impressive. Yesterday, we had the Coast Guard Chaplain, today the Navy Chaplain, and the day before the Army Chaplain. I have been very impressed with their stature and their message.

I am sure this means a great deal to the Presiding Officer, who is a graduate of the Military Academy at West Point. It is good that it reminds us on occasion of the importance of these men and women in uniform, and also the fact that they are constantly aware of the need for spiritual guidance.

I think their being here the last few days has certainly indicated that to anyone watching these proceedings.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as the Chair announced, we will be in a period of morning business until 11:30, at which time we will have a cloture vote. At that time, we will vote on the economic recovery act. If cloture is not invoked, the Senate will immediately vote on cloture on the Grassley amendment. Additional rollcall votes, of course, are possible throughout the day.

Following the cloture votes, if cloture is not invoked, I have been directed by the majority leader to inform everyone that he is going to ask unanimous consent that we move forward today on the additional 13 weeks of unemployment insurance, something we have been trying to do for months now. We asked for that in the closing hours of the last session of the Senate before the Christmas recess. That was not accepted by the minority. I hope they will follow the example of the majority leader and not strip everything out of his economic stimulus package, and certainly let us not leave out of consideration these people who are so desperately in need of these additional weeks.

During the first Bush administration, we extended unemployment benefits on

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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